Iowa Chess News

En Passant

Volume 56, Issue 1 Iowa State Chess Association January 2016

PATRON MEMBERS

Randy Bauer, William Brown, Mark Capron, Benjamin Darr, Benjamin Day, Ana Denison, Christine Denison, Carl Dunn, Rex Gray, David Harrison, Christopher Harrison, Eva Harrison, Gerald Hawkins, Thomas Hesse, James Hodina, Steve Jacobs, Zvonko Juric, Mark Kende, Valeriy Kosokin, Ben Munson, Samuel Naylor VI, Ron Nurmi, Steve Patterson, Dr. Carl Peters, Richard Rector, Arshaq Saleem, Gokul Thangavel, Samathi Thangavel, Robert Vance, Eric Vigil, Mitch Weiss, Nathan Wetter, Jim White, Joe Willett

The name of Patron members will be listed in every issue of En Passant. The extra money will be added to the IASCA budget and spent as the membership directs.

Jim White (left) vs. Bob Reynolds with Arshaq Saleem in the background at the Iowa Open.

Jan. 2, 2016. 8th Annual Holiday Swiss. 4-SS, G/75 + 5 sec delay. Open to all. Price Chopper, 15500 Hickman Road Clive, IA 50325. Reg: 9:00AM to 9:45AM. Rds: 10-1-4-7, One half-point bye allowed, players entering after the start of round 1 will receive one half-point bye. EF: $10 Prizes: b/16: 1st-$50, 2nd-$40, 3rd-$30 USCF Membership Required. Send EF to: Mathew Jacob, 3411 Linworth Lane, Des Moines, IA 50315. Additional Info: No smoking. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. Please bring your pen, set, board, and clock. Please turn off your cell phone before you start your game. Skittles, analysis, and bughouse need to be out of the meeting room. Directions: Ask an employee where the playing hall is.

Jan. 9, 2016. 9th Annual Prairie Chess Series, Tournament #2 (USCF Rated). The second of three tournaments (11/21, 1/9, & 2/6). Four sections will be held: K-2, K-5, K-8, and K-12. Sections K-2 and K-5 will play 5 Games with time control of 30 minutes per player per game. Sections K-8 and K-12 will play 4 games with time control of 45 minutes per player per game. Cafeteria, Prairie Point Middle School & 9th Grade Academy, 8015 Kirkwood Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Reg: 8:30AM to 9:45AM Rds: K-2 and K-5: Round 1 at 10:15 am, Round 2 at 11:15 am, Lunch, Round 3 at 1:00 pm, Rounds 4 & 5 ASAP (estimated finish: 3:30, then trophies). K-8 and K-12: Round 1 at 10:15, Lunch, Round 2 at 12: 15 pm, Rounds 3 & 4 ASAP (estimated finish, 4:30 pm). EF: $15 if registered before tournament, $18 on site. $30 for all three tournaments (Play in 2, third one free) Register by email okay, pay on site. Credit cards accepted. Prizes: Tournament Trophies and Series Trophies for K-12, K-8, K-5, and K-2. Sections: Individual Tournament Trophies K-2: 1st - 3rd Overall, U400 (Top Score), U200 (Top 2 Scores), Unrated (Top 2 Scores); K-5: 1st - 6th Overall, Top score U600, 400, 200, and Unrated; K-8: 1st-6th Overall, Top Score U800, U600, U400, Unrated; K-12: 1st-3rd Overall, U800, U600, Unrated. First Tournament Players: Medals for all players participating in their first USCF Rated Tournament. Series trophies: Total score from all three events and three highest school total scores (all players) from all 3 events. Series class prizes (e.g. U600) based on rating in January supplement: Team Trophies: Top three team scores for K-2, K-5, K-8, and K-12 Individual Trophies: Trophies awarded for same categories as individual tournament trophies (only bigger) USCF Membership Required. Send EF to: James Hodina, 3411 Blue Pt. Ct. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. 319-432-1459 james.hodina@chessiniowa.org Additional Info: http://www.chessiniowa.org Directions: This is the site of the Prairie Chess Camp. This building is south of the The Hotel at Kirkwood. Enter on north side next to tennis courts.

Jan. 16 2016 Iowa High School & K-8 State Championships Tournaments (USCF Denker & Barber Qualifying Event). The Iowa State Chess Association is pleased to host Denker and Barber qualifying event to determine the High School and Grade K-8 Champion. Champions have the right to represent Iowa in the 2016 Denker Tournament of High School Champions and Barber K-8 State Champions to be held in Indianapolis, August, 2016. The Denker is open to high school students (9-12) only. Barber is open to students in grades K-8 only. Students must be under 19 as of 9/1/2016. Coe College, 1220 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403. Reg: 9:00AM to 9:45AM TimeControl: G/60 d5. Rounds: 10:00, 12:30, Games 3 & 4 ASAP. If there are less than 8 players, TD reserves the right to cancel round 4. EF: $15 if registered by 1/12/2016, $20 at site. Prizes: Trophies to Top 5 Overall. Denker: Top scores for USCF U1200, U1000, U800, U600 & Unrated. Barber: Top scores for USCF U1200, U1000, U800, U600, U400 & Unrated. Medals for first time tournament players. In the case of a tie for first place, a match will be held at mutually agreed upon time to determine the representative to the national event. USCF Membership Required. Send EF to: Eric Vigil, 445 Galway Dr. Iowa City, IA 52246. evigil@gmail.com Additional Info: Half-point bye available any round, if requested before Round 1. Register online at www.onlineregistration.cc. Pre-register by contacting Eric Vigil at evigil@gmail.com on or before 1/21/2016. Please include Name, USCF ID #, and grade.

Jan. 23. 2016 Winter Open. An IASCA Mini Qualifier. Open to all. 4-SS, G/45;i30. Accelerated pairings will likely be used. Physician Clinic of Iowa, Community Room (3rd Floor) 202 10th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403. **Reg:** On site 8:30-9:30am **Rds:** Sat: 10, (Lunch) 1:15, 4:15, & 7:30. **EF:** $30 if postmarked by 1/18; $40 at Site; Jrs, Srs, and Out of State $5 Off. Prizes: $760 Based on 30 Entries: 1st = $200; 2nd = $125; 3rd = $75; U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, & Unrated = $60, each. **US Chess Federation (USCF) membership required.** On-Site Available. **IASCA membership required**, $10. On-

Site Available, OSA. **Send Entry Fee to:** IASCA, c/o Mark Capron, 3123 Juniper Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245 or register online at https://onlineregistration.cc/ **Additional Info:** Byes: Late on-site registrations from 9:30 am to noon will be offered a ½ point bye. Only one ½ point bye available per player for the tournament. Byes for rounds 1-3 may be requested 30 minutes prior to round start time. Fourth round byes available during registration only. Free parking in ramp across street (park and enter directly on third floor). Chess Magnet School JGP.

Jan. 23 Weber Borlaug 10th Annual Chess Tournament USCF K-3 and K-6 sections. Limited to the first 150 entries. In honor of the 10th anniversary of the tournament, we will be having a raffle for special door prizes, and although the tournament will be free, one will have to be a USCF member, those 3rd grade and under competing in the 3rd grade and under section will get free USCF memberships for K-3 tournaments, and those over will be getting a discounted membership for $9 if for financial hardship, scholarships are available. Borlaug Elementary School, 1000 Kennedy Parkway, Coralville, IA 52241 Reg: 9:00AM to 9:45AM TimeControl: G/30 Rounds: 5 rounds, two sections. Games begin at 10:00am. 11am Lunch 12:30 then ASAP EntryFee: Free, but Limited to the First 150 entries. Please enter early to guarantee a spot! Prizes: Trophies to top 10 overall, top 5 female and 4 in each grade, and top 6 schools for k-6 Open section. USCF Membership Required. Send EF to: Eric Vigil, evigil@gmail.com Additional Info: Weber-Borlaug Girl Scouts will be providing food concessions on site.

Jan 30-31 2016. 2nd Annual Port of Burlington Open. Iowa State Qualifier Event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points 10 Enhanced. 5SS , G/90 i30. The Loft of Burlington, 416 Jefferson St., Burlington, IA 52601 **$500 Guaranteed**. Open $150+Trophy-100-75 U2000 $100 U1800 $75 Chess Book for top three Upsets; EF: $45 till Jan 28th then $55; $20 extra for players u1600 to play in open section. IM and GM free with ($45deductedfromprize). Iowa State Membership (if resident of Iowa) Req'd, Other States Welcome. Reg.: Ends 15 min before round 1. Rds.: Sat 10:00am; 2:30pm; 7:30pm; Sun 9:00am;2:00pm. All Sections One half point bye if requested before round1. Ent:Eric Vigil, 445 Galway Dr., Iowa City, IA 52246. evigil@gmail.com 319-6213116 or online at https://www.onlineregistration.cc/ Additional Info:USCF and FIDE Rated .Jan 2016 USCF Rating supplement will be used for Pairing Purposes .FIDE rules will be used. IASCA GP Qualifier Event.

Jan 30th 2016. Port of Burlington Reserve. 4-SS, G/60 d5. The Loft of Burlington, 416 Jefferson St., Burlington, IA 52601. EF $25, $30 After Jan 28th or onsite. Rds 10AM, 12:30pm, 3:45pm Asap. Prizes (b/15): $100 1st place, $75 second, $50 3rd. (60% payout) Chess Book for best upset, U1400 1st and 2nd. Board Raffle Prizes! Ent:Eric Vigil, 445 Galway Dr., Iowa City, IA 52246. evigil@gmail.com 319-6213116 or online at https://www.onlineregistration.cc/

Jan 30th 2016. Port of Burlington RBO. 5-SS, G/30 d5. The Loft of Burlington, 416 Jefferson St., Burlington, IA 52601. EF $15, $20 After Jan 28th or onsite. Rds: Sat 10, 11, 1pm, rounds 4 and 5 ASAP. Prizes: Trophies 1-5th place U1000, U800, U600 1st and 2nd U400 1st and 2nd, U200 1st and Unrated 1st and 2nd, Board Raffle Prizes! Free regular Scholastic membership if expired for all sections. Ent:Eric Vigil, 445 Galway Dr., Iowa City, IA 52246. evigil@gmail.com 319-6213116 or online at https://www.onlineregistration.cc/

Feb. 6, 2016. 9th Annual Prairie Chess Series, Tournament #3 (USCF Rated) . See tournament #1 on page 2 for details.

Feb. 13 2016 Iowa Individual-Play Scholastic Team Championships The Iowa State Chess Association is pleased to host the 2016 Scholastic Individual Team Chess Championship open to all schools with Grades K through 12. This event is played as a traditional open Swiss format tournament. Players from the same school will not play each other. Team scores are the total of the top 4 results of players from each team. Site to be announced. Ames, IA Reg: 8:30AM to 9:30AM TimeControl: Grades K-6: G/30, Grades 7-12 G/45, both with 5 second delay Rounds: K-6: 10 am, 11:15 am, Lunch, 12:30, Rounds 4 & 5 ASAP. Grades 7-12: 10 am, Lunch, Noon, Rounds 3 & 4 ASAP. EF: $15 if registered by February 11 (Thursday); $20 after 2/6 or on site. Online registration at: www.onlineregistration.cc. Prizes: Trophies for Top 5 K-6 Teams and Top 3 K-3 Teams; Top 3 K-9 Teams and Top 3 K-12 Teams. Individual Trophies for Top 4 Players of

Continued on Page 6

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Table of Contents: **Page**

Tournament Life	2
Hello From the Editor	5
Puzzle Time	5
New & Returning Members	8
2015 Blitz Championship	8
Spotlight On: Gokul Thangavel	9
World Youth and Cadet's Championship—Arshaq Saleem	12
Cedar Rapids Open	20
Great Plains Open—John Hartmann	22

Join the Iowa State Chess Association!

The Iowa State Chess Association is a non-profit organization devoted exclusively to the promotion of chess in Iowa.

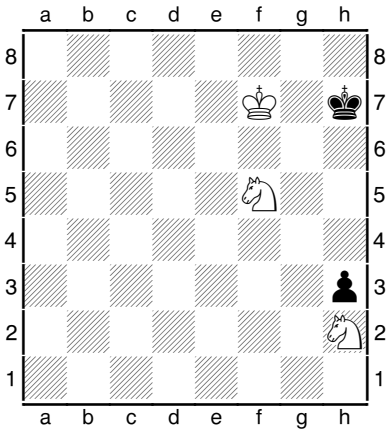
Join or renew by sending dues to the IASCA Secretary:

Ron Nurmi
1424 E. Walnut St. Apt. 4
Des Moines, IA 50316

Membership Dues:

Regular	$10 for 1 year
	$20 for 2 years
Patron:	$25 per year
Affiliates:	$15 per year
Family:	$20 per year
Library:	$25 per year

Puzzle Time:



White to move and mate in four

Hello From the Editor:

Inside you will find contributions from: Ron Nurmi, Eric Vigil, Arshaq Saleem, and Gokul Thangavel. Pictures from Iowa Open from Mark Capron. Picture from World Youth from Peer Saleem. Pictures for Spotlight On submitted by Shanthi Thangavel.

Inside you will find annotated games from Arshaq Saleem in an excellent article about his trip to Greece and the World Youth. Arshaq thank you for representing the US and Iowa.

Also a very nice Spotlight On highlighting Iowa's newest Expert: Gokul Thangavel. Congrats.

The Annual Meeting will be on Saturday April 2 in Ankeny at 1pm. See page 23 for details. The board would like to thank Cub Noble for his service as he will not seek re-election in order to focus on his career. He has suggested Bethany Carson be nominated to replace him. I think this would be a great addition to the board. If anyone wants to be considered attend the annual meeting or submit your name to Ron Nurmi.

As always when you see chess news please submit it. —Mark Capron

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Hello Board,

I thought that I would inform you all that I am planning on surrendering my seat on the IASCA Board next year.

The change in attitude came about so that I may centralize my focus on my career and so I could transfer back to enjoying chess for the game that it is rather than focusing on the behind-the-scenes aspect of the game.

I have an individual that I would be willing to recommend that I feel would make an exceptional addition to the Board, Bethany Carson. With her involvement and leadership organizing leagues and tournaments in chess both online and in person, I feel as though she would make a very good addition to Iowa's State Chess Board. I have spoken with her and she is willing to become a board member.

I appreciate all of your help these last couple years. I do plan on filling the remainder of my term, but I wanted to make you all aware of my intentions regarding next year. Again, thank you all for the opportunity. It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board.

Cassidy "Cub" Noble

Continued from page 3

Winning Teams. Top 4 players' individual results added for team Score. Players scores that are counted toward placing in the K-6 section will not be counted toward the K-3 section prizes. Same for K-12 and K-9. Medals for first time tournament players. USCF Membership Required. Send EF to: James Hodina 3411 Blue Pointe Ct SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 319 -432-1459 james.hodina@chessiniowa.org Additional Info: (Register by email and then pay on-site is acceptable). For the team definition and eligible players, please see the chessiniowa.org website. IASCA Scholastic Championship Rules. For example, students may play for the school they will be attending in the future (e.g. elementary to junior high) provided at least half the team is of the school represented and sixth graders in middle school may play for their former K-5 elementary school.

Feb. 20. Iowa Girls Chess Championship. The Iowa State Chess Association is pleased to host the 2016 Iowa Girls Chess Championship. This is the IASCA qualifying event to represent Iowa at the USCF Girls National Chess Championship held in August at the US Open in Indianapolis. Ladd Library, Cedar Rapids Public Libraries, 3750 Williams Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404. Reg: 8:30AM to 9:30AM TimeControl: G/45 with 5 seconds delay Rounds: 10:00 - 12:15 - Rounds 3 and 4 ASAP. If at the end of the 4th round a playoff will be held with all the tied players to determine a champion at the mutual agreement of the players. Half-point bye available any round if requested before round 1. EntryFee: $15, if registered by 02/18/2016. $20 on site. Register by email and then pay on-site is acceptable. Prizes: Trophies to the top five overall. Top scores for USCF U800, U600, U400, U200 and Unrated. Participant medals for all players. USCF Membership Required. Send EF to: James Hodina 3411 Blue Pointe Ct SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52403 319 -432-1459 james.hodina@chessiniowa.org Additional Info: Advanced entries must be received by 2/18/2016 - email or post mail. Directions: Take Highway 30 to Williams Blvd exit (West of I-380). Travel into Cedar Rapids. Ladd Library is across the street from Westdale Mall behind Pizza Ranch. This is **NOT** the downtown library where the CR Chess Club meets.

Feb. 27. Iowa Scholastic Match-Play Team Championship. 4-SS - Match play format. There are three sections K-6, K-9, and K-12. This event is for the Iowa Elementary, High School, Junior High School Team Match-Play Chess Championships. This format requires the formation of teams of four players from the same school (or feeder school). Schools can enter as many four-player teams as they want. These four-player teams then play in a head-to-head match against each other simultaneously where the highest rated player on each team play, the second highest rated play, on down to the fourth highest rated players. The winner of the match is the team with the most wins (a match can be drawn if the result is 2-2). That win counts as one match point. Future rounds are paired on team match points and not individual results. Some say this resembles the format of a team tennis match. Northwest Jr. High (tentative) 1507 8th St, Coralville, IA 52241 Reg: 8:30AM to 9:30AM TimeControl: G/45 with 5 seconds delay Rounds: 10:00 a.m., Noon, 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m. EntryFee: $40 for a team of 4 players by March Feb 25, $50 on site Prizes: Team and team member trophies to top 3 teams in K-6, K-9, and K-12. Trophies to top score for each board. USCF Membership Required. Send EF to: James Hodina 34111 Blue Pointe Ct SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 319-432 -145 james.hodina@chessiniowa.org Additional Info: Email james.hodina@chessiniowa.org (register by email and then pay on-site is acceptable). Teams scored on result of match result, win – draw – loss. Teams are comprised of 4 students in Elementary, K – 9, or K –12 (JHS/HS) attending the same Iowa school or feeder school. At least two students must attend the elementary, junior high, or high school team represented. 6th graders in middle school may play for former elementary team. Alternates allowed. Contact TD for eligibility of home school teams. Register online at www.onlineregistration.cc. Directions: Tournament will be played in MPR room.

Mar. 5-6 2016 Cedar Rapids Leather Jackets Open (IASCA GP Qualifier). 5-SS Open with Class prizes. G/90 + 30 sec. Physician Clinic of Iowa, Community Resource Center, Third Floor 202 10th Street SE , Cedar Rapids, IA 52403. Reg: 8:30AM to 9:30AM. Rds: Sat 10-2:30-7:15; Sun 9-2. EntryFee: $45 if registered on or before 2/28, $55 afterward or on-site. Register Online at https://www.onlineregistration.cc/ email registration to TD. Prizes: All Open Prizes ($730 b/16). 1st Place = $250 + trophy; 2nd Place = $175; 3rd Place = $125; U2000 & U1800 $90 each. USCF Membership Required available on site or at uschess.org. IASCA Membership Required ($10 regular; $25 patron). Send EF to:

James Hodina 3411 Blue Pointe Ct. SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 319-432-1459 james.hodina@chessiniowa.org Additional Info: Free parking in ramp across street (park and enter directly on second floor) Directions: I-380 7th Street Exit. North on 1st Ave to 10th Street, west 2 blocks. FREE park in ramp on south side. Take 2nd level skywalk then elevator to 3rd floor Community Resource Center.

Mar. 5 2016 Cedar Rapids Leather Jackets Reserve. Under USCF 1600. 4SS, G/75 + 5 sec. Physician Clinic of Iowa, Community Room (3rd Floor) 202 10th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403. Reg: 8:30AM to 9:30AM Rds: 10 AM, 1:15 PM, 4:15 PM, 7:15 PM EF: $25 if registered on or before 2/28, $35 afterward or on-site. Prizes (b/24): 1st = $140; 2nd = $90, U1400, U1200, U1000 = $45, each. Unrateds eligible for 1st and 2nd prizes only. USCF Membership Required available at site or at usches s.org. Send EF to: James Hodina 3411 Blue Pointe Ct. SW Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 319-432 -1459 james.hodina@chessiniowa.org Additional Info: Free parking in ramp across street (park and enter directly on third floor). Directions: I-380 7th Street Exit. North on 1st Ave to 10th Street, west 2 blocks. FREE park in ramp on south side. Take skywalk on 3rd floor to Community Resource Center.

Apr. 2-3 2016 Iowa Class Championship & Iowa Closed Championship 4-SS, Divided into Classes: M-X-A, B, C, & D and under. Players may play up one class. Some sections may be combined. FFA Enrichment Center 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway Ankeny, IA 50023 Reg: 8:15AM to 9:30AM TimeControl: G/75 + 5 sec delay Rounds: M-X-A, B, C, & D, 9:30 am-2:30-5:00-7:30 pm. More rounds will be added if needed. EntryFee: $25 if postmarked by March 23th, online $25 until April 1, $30 on site. Prizes: Class prizes 1st place $50 + trophy; 2nd place $30 USCF Membership Required, IASCA Membership Required. Send EF to: Eric Vigil 445 Galway Dr Iowa City, IA 52246 319-621-3116 evigil@gmail.com Free parking. Accessible to wheelchair. No smoking. on-line registration at: https://www.onlineregistration.cc
Annual meeting at 1 pm. April 2, 2016.

Apr. 22-24 10th Annual Okoboji Open, Reserve(U1600), and Blitz Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center 1405 Highway 71 S Okoboji, IA 51355 Reg: 5:00PM to 5:45PM TimeControl: 3 day schedule (Open and Reserve) - 5 Round Swiss G/120;d5 for all rounds. 2 day schedule (Open and Reserve) - 5 Round Swiss G/90;d5 for rounds 1 and 2 and G/120;d5 for rounds 3-5. 2 day and 3 day schedules merge after round 2. Blitz - 5 Round Swiss G/5;d0 Rounds: Open & Reserve 3 day schedule : Friday 6:00pm; Saturday 10:00am,4:30pm; Sunday 9:00am;2:30pm. Open & Reserve 2 day schedule : Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm-4:30pm; Sunday 9:00am;2:30pm. Blitz Schedule : Round 1 Friday right after end of Open & Reserve Round 1) - Rounds 2-5 ASAP. One half point bye allowed before start of tournament. EntryFee: Open: $50 (juniors & seniors $40) if received by April 15th (or April 20th online). $60 cash or $65 check onsite. GM's and IM's free entry. Reserve: $30 if received by April 15th (or April 20th online). $40 cash or $45 check onsite. Blitz: $10. **** CHESS ROOM RATE $79!!! **** On site registration 5:00-5:45pm on 4-22 (3 day); 8:00-8:45am on 4-23 (2 day) Prizes: Open: Top 3 (guaranteed) $500+Trophy-$350-$200. U2000: $125, U1800: $115, U1600 : $100 (based on 30 players) Reserve: Top 3 (guaranteed) $300+Trophy-$175-$125, U1400: $100, U1250: $75, U1000: $50 (based on 20 players) Blitz : (based on 20 players) 1st: $75, 2nd: $50, U1500: $25, U1250: $25, Unrated: $25 USCF Membership Required: Yes IASCA Membership Required: Yes Send EF to: Jodene Kruse 934 6th Street Sibley, 51249 jodene77@yahoo.com Make checks payable to S-O Chess Club/ Jodene Kruse Additional Info: (Other states memberships accepted for Open section only. IASCA memberships and state memberships not required for reserve section.). One half-point bye allowed if requested in advance. https://www.onlineregistration.cc $79 Hotel rate if reserved by March 22nd. Call the Arrowwood resort at 1-800-727-4561. If players came 5 years or more will receive a token of appreciation.

Jun. 11-12 Ames Open (GP Qualifier) Details to be announced.

Jul. 23-24 Des Moines Summer Open (IASCA GP Qualifier) One open section only. Open to all. 5SS. One 1/2 bye allowed, players entering after the start of round 1 will receive a one 1/2 bye. The site is in the room, Salon A. Salon A is very easy to find. Go straight to Salon A beyond the front desk. Ramada Des Moines Airport Hotel 1810 Army Post Rd Des Moines, IA 50315 Reg: 9:00AM to 9:45AM TimeControl: G/2 hours + 5 sec delay Rounds: Saturday 10-3 -8; Sunday 11-4 EntryFee: $50; College student $10; High school student $10; Middle school student $10; Elementary school student $10. Prizes: (b/25) 1st Place = $240; 2nd Place = $200; 3rd Place = $160; U1600 1st = $120;

U1600 2nd = $80. USCF Membership Required: Yes IASCA Membership Required: Yes Send EF to: Mathew Jacob 3411 Linworth Lane Des Moines, IA 50315 mmjacob20@yahoo.com Additional Info: No smoking. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring your set, clock, and board. Free parking. Interpreter provided. Analysis and skittles need to be played outside the tournament site, not in the tournament site. Spectators welcome. Please be quiet during the tournament. Cellphone policy: Please turn off or silence your cell phone before you start your game. First offense: Subtract 10 minutes or half the remaining time from a player's clock. 2nd offense (and subsequent) offense for the same player during the same event: loss of the game currently in progress. Ramada Des Moines Airport Hotel, 1810 Army Post Rd., Des Moines, IA 50315. Phone: 515-287-6464/Fax: 515-287-5818

<30 GPP>
A Heritage Event!
Aug 26-28. 62nd Iowa Open Championship (USCF & FIDE Rated) IASCA GP Super Qualifier. 5-SS, G/90, i30. Accelerated pairings may be used in Rounds 1-2. IASCA Super GP Qualifier. Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 300 E 9th St. (I-80, SE side of Exit 242), Coralville, IA 52241. More details out soon.

Deadline for Contributions to the next issue of the *Iowa Chess News En Passant* are Due December 10, . The *Iowa Chess News En Passant* is published quarterly by the Iowa State Chess Association. The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the IASCA. None of the contents of the *Iowa Chess News En Passant* may be republished in any manner without the written consent of the editor.

New and Returning Members:

Gerald Hawkins (Patron)
Joseph Wan
Daniel A Deyoung
Tejas Gururaja
Eric E Kaminsky
Seth Koenig
AJ Kozich
Aadarsh Kumar
Sean McCullough
James Neal III
Yash Patil
Joseph J Pregon
Daniel Chenxing Xiang

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Quarter Page:	$15
Back Page:	$100
TLA (non-IASCA affiliate):	$5
TLA (IASCA affiliate):	$0

2015 Iowa Blitz Chess Championship
10/10/2015 Cedar Rapids TD: Jim Hodina

#	Player	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	T
1	Brashaw, Daniel	2221*	2221*	W4	W4	W5	W5	L2	W2	W3	W3	W8	W8	9.0
2	Wan, Joseph Cheng	2119*	2123*	W10	W10	W8	W8	W1	L1	W4	W4	W3	D3	8.5
3	Thangavel, Gokul	1841*	1844*	W7	W7	W6	W6	W5	D5	L1	L1	L2	D2	6.0
4	Lodh, Anish	1485*	1529*	L1	L1	W11	W11	W6	W6	L2	L2	W9	W9	6.0
5	Chen, Nathan	1596*	1597*	W12	W12	L1	L1	L3	D3	L8	W8	W11	W11	5.5
6	Raut, Abhishek	1496/04	1423/14	W11	W11	L3	L3	L4	L4	W12	W12	L7	W7	5.0
7	Lu, Morgan	1268*	1325*	L3	L3	W10	W10	W8	L8	W9	L9	W6	L6	5.0
8	Takahashi, Michae	1496/19	1498*	W9	W9	L2	L2	L7	W7	W5	L5	L1	L1	4.0
9	Fiedorowicz, Jess	1179/16	1202*	L8	L8	W12	W12	W10	L10	L7	W7	L4	L4	4.0
10	Vigil, Barry	1072*	1133*	L2	L2	L7	L7	L9	W9	L11	W11	W12	W12	4.0
11	Nguyen, Thomas H	1192/12	1152/22	L6	L6	L4	L4	W12	L12	W10	L10	L5	L5	2.0
12	Vigil, Eric Golf	1249*	1132*	L5	L5	L9	L9	L11	W11	L6	L6	L10	L10	1.0

Spotlight On: Gokul Thangavel, Iowa's Newest Expert

How long you have been playing chess and how did you start?
I started playing chess in Pre-school and started playing OTB when I was five. My mother introduced me to the game at around 3-4 and I got hooked.

What draws you to chess?
I like how the excitement of the game can last throughout. At anytime, one change can ultimately decide the score.

What was the first OTB tournament you played in and how did you do?
My first tournament was at the RBO section of the 2007 Iowa Open and finished with the spectacular score of 0/5!

Do you play chess on the internet?
Yes, my favorite sites to play on are usually Lichess.org, Chess.com, and ICC

What do you think of chess on the internet?
I think that chess on the internet is a great way to meet new people and just get some practice on your chess skills, but with the USCF allowing tournaments on ICC and Chess.com, that can also get you a few rating points as well.

What has been your greatest success in chess?
My greatest success in chess was winning the Class C prize at the 114th US Open as well as getting an expert rating this year.

Do you play correspondence chess?
I do play the Chess.com online chess which can last for days.

What other hobbies do you have?
I like to play basketball, do cross-country, as well as playing instruments such as the Violin and piano.

Tell us some about your family?
I have one sister, Sanmati, who represented Iowa this year as the Girls representative at the NGIT and is 14 years old, as well as my mom Shanthi who is an Engineer as well as a teacher and my dad, Dr.Ram Ph.D who is a Scientist for UI

Who is your favorite chess player of all time?
I have a strong bias of Vishy Anand as he was born in the same state in India where my parents were born.

Do you have a favorite game that was played in the past by any player?
I really liked the game Benedikt Jonasson's game from 1984 as he didn't see that he had a miracle defence.

Benedikt Jonasson—Haukur Angantysson ECO B40. Reykjavik, 1984.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♘×d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♘db5 d6 7.♗f4 e5 8.♗g5 a6 9.♗×f6 g×f6 10.♘a3 b5 11.♘d5 ♗g7 12.♗d3 ♘e7 13.♘×e7 ♕×e7 14.c4 f5 15.O-O O-O 16.♕e2 b×c4 17.♘×c4 ♖b8 18.e×f5 d5 19.♘e3 ♖d8 20.♗×a6 ♗×a6 21.♕×a6 e4 22.♖ad1 d4 23.♘c4 e3 24.f×e3 d×e3 25.♖×d8+ ♖×d8 26.f6 e2 {A half-baked sacrifice which should have lost the game.} **27.f×e7 ♗d4+** {White resigns unnecessarily, as 28.♘e3! would allow White to cover f1 and win the game.} **0-1**

Do you have a favorite game you have played?
This game was against a National Master at the 114th US Open, for some reason, we had to play someone 500-700 rating points higher which led to me facing off against someone I was not ready to expect.

Haessler, Carl (2210)—**Thangavel, Gokul** (1599) 114th US Open. Madison, Wisconsin. 2013.08.01. Round "1". A01. {My opponent came 13 minutes late in the G/60 section, though being a national

master, this almost messed the game up.} **1.b3** {The Larsen's Opening} **e5 2.♗b2 ♘c6 3.e3 d5 4.♗b5 d4?!** {A slight error, much better was 4...♗d6} (4... ♗d6 5.f4 f6 6.♘h3 ♘ge7 7.f×e5 ♗×e5 8.♗×e5 f×e5 9.O-O ♕d6 10.♘c3 ♗f5 11.♗×c6+ b×c6 12.♕h5+ g6 13.♕h4 O-O-O 14.g4) **5.e×d4 e×d4 6.♕e2+ ♗e6 7.♘f3 ♗c5 8.O-O?!** {This was a questionable move on his side, 8.♕e5 was much stronger} (8.♕e5 ♕e7 9.♘×d4 ♗d7 10.♘×c6 b×c6 11.♗d3 ♕×e5+ 12.♗×e5 ♘f6 13.♗×c7 ♘d5 14.♗g3 {With a great advantage...}) **8... ♘f6 9.♕e5 ♕d6 10.♕×d6 c×d6 11.♘×d4 ♔d7 12.♘×e6 f×e6 13.d4 ♗b6 14.♘d2 a6 15.♗×c6+ b×c6 16.c4 ♖he8 17.♖ad1 c5 18.♘f3 ♖ad8 19.♖fe1 h6 20.♔f1 ♔c7 21.h3 ♖d7 22.♖e3 ♖de7 23.♖de1 c×d4 24.♗×d4 ♗×d4 25.♘×d4 e5 26.♘f5 ♖f7 27.♖d3 ♖e6 28.♖ed1?** {Now, with time pressure underway, he makes a big mistake, equalising the position. Better was 28.♘e3 where he would still keep his advantage.} **♘e4! 29.♖f3?** {Too many time pressure errors!} **♘g5! 30.♘h4 ♘×f3 31.♘×f3 e4** {With a very comfortable position and having a 2 minute to 6 minute time advantage, I make a very novice offer.....} **1/2-1/2??**

What is your favorite quotation? and chess quotation?
My favorite quotation is my chess quotation as well, "If you find a good move, look for a better one," --Emmanuel Lasker

Do you have a favorite chess book?
Forcing Chess Moves by Charles Hertan

What types of chess library do you have?
I have a good amount of books ranging from puzzles to openings to psychological aspects of chess.

Do you have a favorite chess opening?
I enjoy sometimes playing the St. Georges Defence as well as the Anderssen's opening.

Do you have a favorite chess ending?
I like mate with 2 Bishops + King vs King

Do you have a favorite movie?
I prefer more of an action/Sci-fy type of movie, though I do not have any favorites.

What is your favorite food?
I prefer spicy food all around

What is your favorite color?
I like the color blue

Any advice you would want to give to new players of the game?
Enjoy chess, don't take it too hard on yourself when you lose, losing is just another way of learning and will undoubtedly help you pursue what you're going to accomplish.

Anything else you would like to add?
I would like to thank everyone who helped me to become successful in chess and a heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the Iowa State Chess Association board members for their support, encouragement and opportunities.

World Youth and Cadets Championship

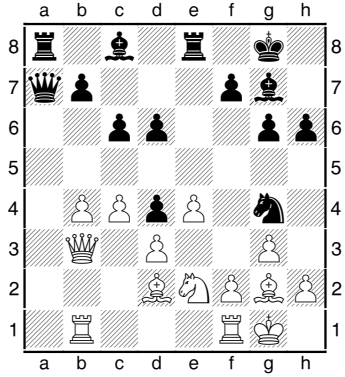
by Arshaq Saleem

This year I had the privilege of playing in the World Youth and Cadets Championship in Halkidiki, Greece. I earned the qualification to play in this tournament by winning the Susan Polgar World Open, although after I won this tournament FIDE made the tournament an open event. We arrived in Greece on October 23, just the previous night before the tournament. The playing venue was the Portacaras resort with two hotels. The USA delegation stayed at the Sithonia hotel. The resort was somewhat isolated from the main cities of Greece. What we got in return was a nice view of the Aegean Sea. On our first night there, it took some time to get accustomed to the absence of air conditioning in our room, but this was soon irrelevant. The internet connection was sub−optimal to say the least, but it is quite difficult to ensure a good connection with more than 1000 people in the same hotel. We bought a local broadband internet connection paying close to 50 Euros only to find out the signal was very weak at our location. Also, my dad didn't give up his quest to get us connected. He was finally able to get a technician to fix the wired connection after a few days. The next morning, the pairings were posted quite early (from then on, they were posted the night before the round), and I found I was playing Alexei Sarana of Russia. The normal schedule for the day would be that my trainer would show up around 12:45. We would look at my opponent's games in the database, and prepare some line for them. Sarana played just about everything, so I chose a more "open−minded" attitude for the game. The round each day started at 3:00 p.m. (with the exception of the last day, when it began at 10:30 a.m.), and the playing venue was a short walk away from our hotel. Playing on one of the DGT boards, I was a bit nervous, but the show must go on. Top 10 boards were live with 30 minute delay in transmission.

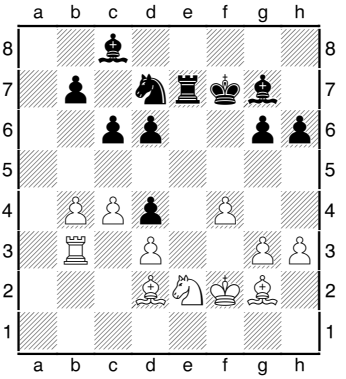
Sarana,Alexei (2413) − Saleem,Arshaq (2082) [A24]
(1), 27.10.2015

1.♘f3 [Like I mentioned earlier, I didn't know what to expect, so I just played] **1...d6 2.g3 ♘f6 3.♗g2 g6 4.0−0 ♗g7 5.c4 0−0 6.♘c3 e5 7.d3 h6!?** [this is quite an interesting way to play against the English. In this line, Black often combines play on the queenside with action in the center] **8.♖b1 a5** [this is important, to force White to play a3. Now if White goes b4, I get the a−file. If I instead try 8...c6 with the idea of playing d5, then White can play 9.b4 and if I play 9...a5 now, White responds with 10.b5 when he is already much better] **9.a3 ♖e8** [This must also be included, to further dissuade b4] **10.e4** [10.b4 a×b4 11.a×b4 e4! reveals the point of 9...♖e8. Black has active play here.] **10...c6 11.♖e1 ♘a6** [so far this has been all theory. My main idea is to play ♘c7 and then break with either d5 or with b5] **12.b4 a×b4 13.a×b4 ♘c7** [renewing the idea of b5] **14.♗e3 ♘e6** [I wanted to stop him from playing ♗b6. 14...b5 turns out to also be completely fine for Black 15.♗b6 is just met by *(15.c×b5* isn't troubling at all after *15...♘×b5 16.♘×b5 c×b5 17.♖a1 ♗e6* when the position is completely equal*)* 15...♕e7 when grabbing a pawn with 16.♗×c7 ♕×c7 17.c×b5 c×b5 18.♘×b5 doesn't work after 18...♕c6 when the knight will be collected] **15.♕b3 ♘g4** [Threatening to take his bishop which either: devalues his pawn structure, or gives me control over the a−file.] **16.♗d2** [16.♖a1 ♖×a1 17.♖×a1 ♘×e3 18.f×e3 h5! followed by ♗h6 is already better for Black] **16...♕b6** [attacking f2 and preparing ♕a7 to control the a−file] **17.♖f1 ♘d4** [transforming the pawn structure]

18.♘×d4 e×d4 19.♘e2 ♕a7 [Taking control over the a-file makes sense, but now the position becomes deceptively tricky.



19...♘e5! I simply didn't consider this move. It is counterintuitive, but strong. The main justification lies in the fact that White has no good moves 20.♖a1 is natural to take control over the a-file, but after *(20.f4 ♘g4* and the knight hops into e3*; 20.h3? ♗×h3* and the bishop is untouchable on account of ♘f3+*)* 20...♖×a1 21.♖×a1 ♗g4 with ideas of ♘f3 or ♗f3, Black is for choice] **20.h3 ♘e5 21.f4 ♕a2** [The queen exchange should favor me, as I retain control over the a-file, but the endgame is harder to play than it seems] **22.♖fd1 ♕×b3 23.♖×b3 ♘d7 24.♗c1 f5** [Stopping his kingside majority before he is able to play g4 should be the right course of action] **25.♔f2 ♖a2?** [In principle, I shouldn't trade off my active rook for his passive one. I played this move, because I wasn't too fond of my options. 25...f×e4 my original inclination. 26.♗×e4 *(26.d×e4 c5)* 26...♘f8 *(26...♔h7* the computer claims this to be fine for Black, but the idea is quite concrete. After *27.g4 ♘f6 28.♗f3 d5! 29.c5 h5* Black is doing well, but I must admit I didn't see this sequence*)* 27.g4 ♗e6 28.♘g3 wasn't much to my liking. White has ideas of f5 and will play ♗b2 to pressure the d4-pawn 28...b5!? a crazy move recommended by the GM's I was analyzing with. It looked ludicrous to me in the game, and it doesn't really work out, but it is worth checking; 25...♘f6 26.e×f5 ♗×f5 27.g4 ♗d7 28.♗b2 also looked pretty unpleasant.] **26.♖d2 ♖×d2 27.♗×d2** [now I will suffer for a long time to come.] **27...f×e4 28.♗×e4 ♔f7** [28...♘f8 29.g4 ♗e6 30.♘g3 looked bad, with the idea of f5 again] **29.♗g2 ♖e7?** [Trying to remain flexible to decide whether my knight should be on f8 or b6, but this move leaves the defense of the 8th rank too



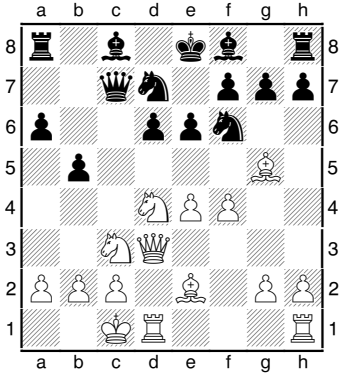
early. 29...♘f8 30.♖a3 ♗e6 is a better try, but Black will suffer with a looming a-file invasion and reroutement of the dark bishop to b2 is on the cards; 29...h5!? may be the best bet. I was reluctant to give up the g5-square, but this is a lesser evil than allowing g4] **30.♖a3 ♘f8 31.g4** [my opponent, a product of the Russian school is following the underlying principle of endgame play: Don't hurry. Here White has a substantial advantage and it is already very difficult to defend against a possible f5, pressure on the d4-pawn and the rook on the a-file] **31...♔e8** [I wanted to defend d6 (after ♘g3-e4) by ♔d7 (or c7), but I didn't realize that ♔d8 is met by b5 and that ♔d7 would allow White to play f5.] **32.♘g3 ♖f7** [this is probably also a mistake, but the position is lost regardless. 32...♔d7 is probably best, but after 33.♖a8 Black won't last long] **33.♘e4 ♔d7 34.♖a8 ♘e6** [I missed that he had ♖×b7 at the end, but at this point, there's not much left to do.] **35.♖×c8 ♘×f4 36.♖b8 ♔c7 37.♖×b7+!** [Not the best way to start off the tourna-

ment, but my opponent was substantially higher−rated and I had 10 more rounds to go. In my second round, I played a lower rated opponent (about 1850). After achieving a good position from the open−ing, I proceeded to mix up the lines I had prepared. My position became quite bad, but throughout the middlegame I thought I was playing the correct moves. When I realized that my position actually wasn't good, it was too late, and I went on to lose. Ok, starting 0/2 is not that good, but it can't get any worse from here, right?... Wrong!] **1-0**

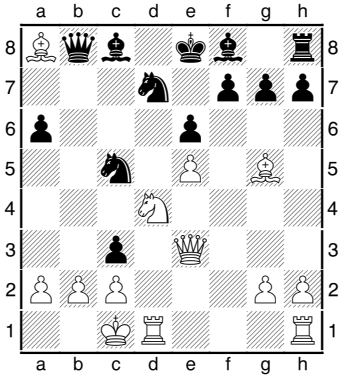
Utemisov,Aruzhan (1752) − Saleem,Arshaq (2082) [B95] (3), 27.10.2015

Starting off with two losses and then play−ing someone over 300 points below you can be demoralizing. But what is more depressing is when you lose to that per−son 300 points lower and go down to 0/3.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♘×d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♗g5 e6 7.♕d3 [7.f4 and the queen usually comes to f3] **7...♘bd7** [I felt that delaying ♗e7 and developing the queenside first was the best way to take over the initiative] **8.0-0-0 ♕c7 9.f4 b5 10.♗e2** [I thought I was pretty much win−ning here after the forced sequence, but of

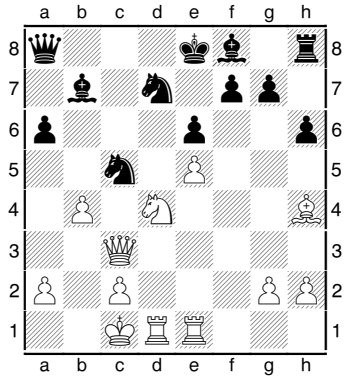


course it is never that easy] **10...♘c5 11.♕e3 b4** [This was what I had seen, and if he moves his knight away, e4 drops with a big advantage (probably winning) for Black] **12.e5!** [the only move to keep the fight alive] **12...d×e5??** [going against every principle in chess. I had another continuation which more or less main−tained the advantage without too many fireworks. Playing this move, I open up the f−file, the d−file, White's g5-bishop and several checkmating motifs. In return I get a position that is not even that clear. When you play such a move, you must be ex−tremely careful. 12...b×c3 13.e×f6 c×b2+ 14.♔b1 g6∓ and Black has weakened the White queenside and White doesn't really have much play in the center. There are still of course some problems to solve, but Black should be better] **13.f×e5 ♘fd7** [13...b×c3 14.e×f6 is certainly not an im−provement over 12...b×c3, but maybe this was still the best course of action.] **14.♗f3?** [14.♘e4 I'm not even sure what I should do here. Black is already in serious trouble 14...♘×e4 *(14...♕×e5 15.♗f3 ♗b7 16.♗f4* and the queen is trapped*)* 15.♕×e4 ♗b7 16.♕h4 ♕×e5 17.♖he1 and this is the type of position you try really hard to avoid when playing the Black side of a sicilian. I suspect White is just winning here] **14...b×c3 15.♗×a8 ♕b8** [Now I am once again in charge, as I'm on his bishop and



threatening mate on b2] **16.♕×c3** [16.b4? would keep the extra exchange, but at the cost of weakening his king tremendously 16...♕×b4 17.♖de1 h6 18.♗f4 ♘b6 is hope−less for White] **16...♕×a8 17.♖he1**

[17.♖hf1! is perhaps best, but Black is still better, however, after 17...h6 18.♗h4 g5 19.♗f2 ♗g7] **17...h6 18.♗h4 ♗b7??** [I had to shut down his bishop from the diagonal. 18...g5 19.♗g3 ♗b7 is great for Black.] **19.b4!!** [an extremely hard move to find, but now White is better]



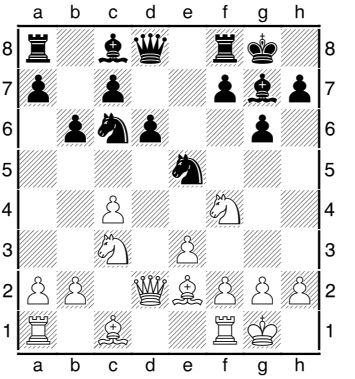
19...g5 [this is the best try, other tries are crushed. 19...♘e4 20.♕c7 with the idea of ♘×e6 is game over; 19...♘a4 20.♕b3! White is attacking the Black knight and threatening to play ♘×e6, leading to checkmate] **20.b×c5 ♘×c5 21.♗f2 ♘e4 22.♖×e4?** [strange. 22.♕e3 ♗b4 and Black has some compensation, but White should be better] **22...♗×e4 23.♕a5 ♕c8??** [one of the dumbest moves I have ever made. I thought I was being clever, trapping the knight to the defense of c2, but I missed something simple...23...♗e7 is the automatic move that Black should play (much like 18...g5). Had I done this, I would have been better again] **24.♕a4+ ♕d7** [24...♔e7 25.♗e1 with ♗b4+ in the air is devastating] **25.♘×e6!** [splattering my position.] **25...♗c6** [25...♕×a4 26.♘c7+ ♔e7 27.♗c5# a picturesque position that I allowed by playing d×e5. We now clearly see the repercussions of that decision] **26.♕a5!** [It's all over] **26...♗a3+ 27.♕×a3 ♕×e6 28.♕×a6 ♗×g2 29.♕a3 ♕e7 30.♗c5 ♕×e5 31.♕a4+** [A horrible game. I opened all the lines for attack and I got checkmated. Seems like a fitting end. After losing my first three games, I was quite lucky that the next day was a rest day. I went on the excursion to Thessaloniki which was very enjoyable. Not playing chess for a day helped me, and I was ready for a comeback in the second part of the tournament. Alas, I had to wait for a few more rounds. My next game was played against a 1500 rated player from Scotland, but I knew not to take anyone lightly. He blundered a pawn early on, and despite some technical problems converting in the endgame, I managed to reel in my first point of the tournament. I was quite happy to break the streak, but the next round hurt. I was playing a 1700 who was from Tajikistan. After a pretty equal opening I developed some pressure in the middlegame, but after one move, my activity disappeared and it was just equal. With my clock ticking down going into the time control at move 40, I had a critical decision to make: I could accept that the position was equal and head for a draw, or I could roll the dice, playing a position that could even be worse for me, but retaining some chances to win. I really wanted to win and so I chose the latter option, only to find that I had seriously misevaluated the line. I perhaps missed a spectacular chance to hold the game, and I went on to lose. 1/5. Also playing 4 lower-rated players. Not a very pleasant situation, especially as I am missing 2 weeks of school and will have lots of homework to catch up to... I couldn't just withdraw from the tournament however, and I tried to maintain some confidence. My sixth round game found me playing another Scottish player rated 1682. I had the White pieces and before the game, Tansel Turgut, a master from Chicago gave me a pep talk which went something like this, "Arshaq, you're the better player, just play a solid game and wait for his mistake. Don't overpress. A draw is OK but play for the win", and these same words are what carried me throughout the remainder of the tournament. The game against the Scottish player was the start of a turnaround. I won quite convincingly in my sixth and seventh

rounds, and was now sitting on 3/7. Not really the result I wanted, but certainly an improvement over the first half of the tournament. My eighth round game came against an 1800 from Belgium. He hung a pawn early on and I was more or less winning the entire game. I made some suboptimal moves here and there, but my advantage remained quite large until we reached an endgame of all major pieces. I missed some simple wins and then he was able to find a perpetual check, drawing the game. I was hoping that this game would bring me to 50%, but such was not the case. My next game saw me playing a 1900 from Algeria. His opening was predictable, and I got on the board what I had prepared with the coach that was assigned to me. The game was following my preparation and then he started to go astray. I saw that I could sacrifice a pawn to prevent him from castling. I second-guessed my compensation, and played another neutral move that led to equality and the game was eventually drawn (despite some fireworks). It turns out that the pawn sacrifice that I had rejected was just winning for me, and I missed an opportunity to obtain a 50% score. I was quite angry with myself. The first five rounds of the tournament were a disaster and following a brief period of success I was again starting my slump.] **1-0**

Saleem,Arshaq (2082) − Efe Mert,Kilic (1942) [A52] (10), 12.11.2015

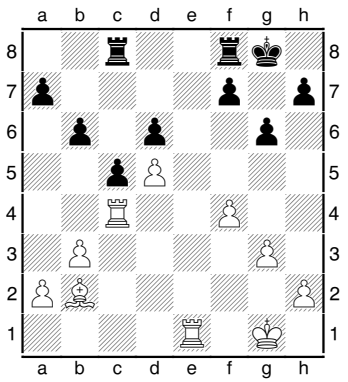
My tenth round saw me playing a 1900 from Turkey. This game I decided to just play without any pressure, and I didn't really prepare anything.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e5 [as mentioned, I hadn't looked at anything specific against the lines that he played, but I didn't recall seeing any Budapest Gambit games of his] **3.d×e5 ♘g4 4.♘h3!?** [this is a pretty reasonable way to frustrate people that play the Budapest. White is slowing down the tempo of the game dramatically and aims at just playing a normal position where he can try to squeeze Black slowly. The point behind this move is to just play ♘f4 quickly] **4...♘×e5 5.e3 g6 6.♘c3 d6 7.♘f4 ♗g7 8.♗e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♘bc6 10.♕d2** [this looks a bit odd, but the point is to defend the c3-knight and prepare to fianchetto my dark-squared bishop. The real trouble for Black in this position is that even though he can develop all his pieces, he has trouble constructing a plan. White can just finish developing and then aim to eventually go f3 and e4, but the same cannot be said for Black's position] **10...b6?!** [this just doesn't seem right to me, but I don't know what else Black should do.



10...♗f5 11.b3 and while it may just seem like an equal position, White will stick a knight on d5 and, as mentioned above, advance with e4 at the right moment.] **11.b3 ♗b7 12.♗b2 ♘e7** [I guess Black wants to play ♘f5, but this doesn't seem like the best idea] **13.♖ad1 ♕d7?!** [the queen is awkwardly-placed here. 13...♘f5 however, can be met by 14.♘fd5 and Black has to watch out for ideas like f4 and e4] **14.f3 ♖ad8 15.♖fe1 ♘f5 16.♘fd5** [White has a huge threat of f4 followed by ♗g4] **16...♘h4** [Black was in trouble no matter what] **17.f4 ♘c6** [17...♘g4 18.g3 and Black loses a piece] **18.g3 ♘f5 19.♗g4** [White is threatening e4 winning a piece, and if the Black queen unpins itself, then ♗×f5 will destroy the Black kingside] **19...♕c8** [19...♕e8 20.♘×c7+-] **20.e4** [I had to calculate a little to play this] **20...♗d4+**

[the only try] **21.♘e3 ♘×e3** [21...♗×e3+ 22.♖×e3+-] **22.♗×c8 ♘×c4+** [22...♘×d1+ 23.♔g2 is also winning] **23.♕×d4 ♘×d4 24.♖×d4 c5 25.♖×c4 ♖×c8 26.♘d5+- ♗×d5 27.e×d5** [now White's task is quite simple, and with an extra piece I went on



to win.] **27...f5 28.♖e7 ♖f7 29.♖×f7 ♔×f7 30.♖c2 a5 31.♖e2 b5 32.a4 b×a4 33.b×a4 ♖b8 34.♗c3 ♖b3 35.♗×a5 ♖a3 36.♗c7 ♖×a4 37.♗×d6 ♖d4 38.♖e5 c4 39.♗b4 h6 40.♖e7+ ♔g8 41.d6 c3 42.♖c7 ♖×b4 43.d7 ♖b1+ 44.♔g2 ♖d1 45.♖c8+ ♔f7 46.d8♕ c2 47.♕c7+ ♔e6 48.♕×c2** [I finally achieved my 50% score. Kind of pathetic as I had high hopes, but you have to adjust to the situation at hand. Looking back at things I could have done differently: 1) First thing is to go few days earlier to get adjusted. We thought the jetlag is not going to be bad with only 7 hrs difference, but it did have some effect on the first few rounds 2) Never try to handle school work and serious chess at the same time. I was hoping to keep up with the homework, prepare for my final tests. Well, with the lack of internet it was not easy. After the first 5 rounds I realized I am not doing justice to school work and Chess. I reached out to my teachers. All of them graciously agreed to give me time after I get back. That cleared some major worry for me and let me focus on my games. 3) Food is another thing. Though the resort was giving all−you−can−eat buffet 3 times a day, eating the same food for 14 days is difficult. The resort is a gated community. For any near−by food we needed to take a ferry. :) This is common in international events. Players need to get used to it. Now back to the final stretch. The next round after facing several lower−rated players, my wish was granted. I was playing a 2200 player from Kyrgyzstan. I went into the game with the only intention of winning. I didn't care how I did it or what happened in the opening. My aggressiveness payed off and I defeated my opponent rather quickly. From an outsider's perspective 6/11 at a world youth championship sounds reasonable, but reading this report I think you can tell that this tournament was anything but smooth for me. Following the tournament, we spent a day in Athens to see the amazing sights such as the Parthenon atop the Acropolis and several museums. I learned more about Greek culture in that one day in Athens than I had previously known. The trip, despite the deficiencies in my play was an amazing experience and well worth missing two weeks of school. I would like to thank my parents for supporting me throughout the tournament, my coaches GM Gergely Antal, GM Gabor Papp (provided by GM Susan Polgar), Sevan Muradian of Chess IQ for coordinating with USChess, Jerry Nash and the USChess team and Tansel Turgut (on a side note his son, Aydin, had an amazing tournament in the U-12 section) for providing me the motivation I needed to get back on my feet after a rough start. My sincere thanks goes out to West High Principal Dr. Shoultz and all my teachers for providing support. Last but not least I want to thank you the reader for reading about my experience in Greece. Next year the World youth is going to be in Russia close to Siberia. My chances of taking part are slim but you never know. Looking forward to some exciting chess in 2016!]
1-0

Olympic Hall

FIDE
World Youth and Cadets Chess
Championships 2015
OPEN
16

Puzzle Time Answer: **1.♘g4 h2 2.♘f6+ ♔h8 3.♘e7 h1=♕ 4.♘g6 mate!**

Cedar Rapids Open

10/24/2015 TD: Jim Hodina

#	Player	PreR	PostR	PreQ	PostQ	1	2	3	4	T
1	Thangavel, Gokul	1956*	2008*	1687*	1796*	W8	W9	W25	W10	4.0
2	Neal, James Alex,	2146*	2150*	2004*	2003*	W6	W11	W23	D3	3.5
3	Wan, Joseph Cheng	2142*	2145*	1858*	1872*	W7	W17	W15	D2	3.5
4	Koenig, Seth A	2004*	2006*	1786*	1803*	D14	W18	W12	D9	3.0
5	Darr, Benjamin J	1664*	1678*	1577*	1592*	L9	W33	W31	W18	3.0
6	Jetty, Milind	1661*	1684*	1481*	1528*	L2	W20	W21	W17	3.0
7	Scharosch, Austin	1619*	1628*	1364*	1389*	L3	W31	W34	W23	3.0
8	Lodh, Anish	1502*	1515*	1484*	1494*	L1	W22	W24	W20	3.0
9	Keating, Robert F	2197*	2180*	2075*	2051*	W5	L1	W29	D4	2.5
10	Vasto, Daniel	2061*	2043*	2000*	2000*	W13	D12	W14	L1	2.5
11	Blokhin, Ilya	1828*	1813*	1564/03	1558/07	W27	L2	D30	W25	2.5
12	Takahashi, Michae	1789*	1798*	1578*	1599*	W19	D10	L4	W29	2.5
13	Fiedorowicz, Owen	1541*	1552*	1314*	1372*	L10	W30	W22	H0	2.5
14	Chen, Nathan	1535*	1566*	1701*	1704*	D4	W34	L10	W30	2.5
15	Thompson, Kian	1033*	1136*	1045*	1134*	W32	W28	L3	H0	2.5
16	Thompson, Tony D	1749*	1708*	1791*	1748*	L18	D29	W26	H0	2.0
17	Taylor, Grant	1739/16	1718/20	1669/10	1625/14	W28	L3	W33	L6	2.0
18	Deyoung, Daniel A	1466*	1488*	1295/20	1356/24	W16	L4	W35	L5	2.0
19	Vigil, Barry	1443*	1407*	1399*	1357*	L12	L25	W40	W34	2.0
20	Tivanski, Vlad	1252*	1252*	1183*	1195*	W35	L6	W32	L8	2.0
21	Kaminsky, Eric E	1276/04	1149/08	1092/12	1078/16	L25	W40	L6	W35	2.0
22	Vigil, Eric Golf	1202*	1195*	1239*	1221*	W39	L8	L13	W36	2.0
23	Pieper, Eric Chun	1178*	1227*	940*	1033*	W26	W27	L2	L7	2.0
24	Pieper, Justin Gu	952*	1009*	956*	1007*	L29	W39	L8	W33	2.0
25	Kumar, Aadarsh Da	662*	865*	679*	876*	W21	W19	L1	L11	2.0
26	Patil, Yash	377/10	559/14	667*	749*	L23	W38	L16	W40	2.0
27	OgrinCotarlan, A	1481*	1442*	1411*	1360*	L11	L23	W38	H0	1.5
28	Cotarlan, Vlad	1372/25	1331*	1290/11	1243/14	L17	L15	W37	H0	1.5
29	Palaniappan, Arju	1346*	1365*	1288*	1308*	W24	D16	L9	L12	1.5
30	Kozich, Andrew Jo	1310*	1314*	1357*	1345*	W38	L13	D11	L14	1.5
31	Fiedorowicz, Jess	1282*	1272*	1254*	1235*	W40	L7	L5	H0	1.5
32	Pregon, Joseph Je	674/00	930/03	674/00	921/03	L15	W36	L20	H0	1.5
33	Nguyen, Thomas H	1309*	1266*	1281*	1236*	W36	L5	L17	L24	1.0
34	Stumpf, Eric Karl	1220*	1200*	1125*	1106*	W37	L14	L7	L19	1.0
35	Day, Benjamin Wil	936/08	908/12	1141/20	1083/24	L20	W37	L18	L21	1.0
36	Couch, Richard	842*	812*	872*	838*	L33	L32	W39	L22	1.0
37	Gururaja, Tejas K	527*	518*	530*	524*	L34	L35	L28	B0	1.0
38	Thompson, Luke	708*	663*	717*	686*	L30	L26	L27	H0	0.5
39	Fiedorowicz, Isab	394*	386*	426*	417*	L22	L24	L36	H0	0.5
40	Xiang, Daniel Che	705/05	617/09	748/05	683/09	L31	L21	L19	L26	0.0

Iowa Individual Grades Championship

12/5/2015 Iowa City TD: Eric Vigil
Jess Fiedorowicz
William Broich
Jim Hodina

First Grade:	Kyros Wu	4.0/4.0
Second Grade:	Laura Chen	3.5/4.0
	James Martin	3.5/4.0
Third Grade:	Thomas Nguyen	3.5/4.0
Fifth Grade:	Andrew Ogrin-Cotarlan	4.0/4.0
Sixth Grade:	Owen Fiedorowicz	3.5/4.0
	Arjun Palaniappan	3.5/4.0
Seventh Grade:	Clive Power	3.5/4.0
Ninth Grade:	Luke Schaeckenbach	4.0/4.0

A man who can defeat his own fears; can conquer victory! Fear of loosing, fear of deception fear of defeat against another opponent. fear of death, even checkmate. like in chess and life is not always about rainbows and butterflies, to some victory is what's important but learning from mistakes is a great virtue. A real chess player is one who accepts defeat and falls down many times, but learns to get up. What can a man actually learns from victory? For it takes defeat to understand, if not you will always make the same mistake over and over" ---- Author Unkown

7th Annual Des Moines Classic

10/31/2015 Ankeny TD: Mathew Jacob

#	Player	St	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	T
1	Girardo, Christop	IL	2000*	2017*	W2	W7	D3	W5	3.5
2	Jetty, Milind	IA	1684*	1731*	L1	W10	W13	W9	3.0
3	Vasto, Daniel	IA	2043*	2035*	X14	D4	D1	H0	2.5
4	Gaul, Thomas	IA	1819*	1829*	W11	D3	D5	D6	2.5
5	Blokhin, Ilya	IA	1813*	1810*	D9	W8	D4	L1	2.0
6	Hesse, Thomas	IA	1818*	1806*	H0	D9	D8	D4	2.0
7	Takahashi, Michae	IA	1798*	1775*	W10	L1	L9	W11	2.0
8	Fabian, Mitchell	OH	1684*	1679*	W12	L5	D6	H0	2.0
9	Scharosch, Austin	IA	1628*	1662*	D5	D6	W7	L2	2.0
10	Weinrich, Joseph	IL	1364*	1399*	L7	L2	W12	W13	2.0
11	Jacobs, Steve	IA	1400*	1400*	L4	W12	H0	L7	1.5
12	Mccullough, Sean	IA	355/06	355/09	L8	L11	L10	H0	0.5
13	Jacob, Mathew	IA	1776*	1727*	H0	U0	L2	L10	0.5
14	Wolz, Dave	IA	1664*	1664*	F3	U0	U0	U0	0.0

ILLOWA QC FALL CLASSIC 2015

10/3/2015 Bettendorf TD: Dr. Gary Nordick
ASTD: Rick Rector

#	Player	St	Pre	Post	1	2	3	4	T
1	Wan, Joseph Cheng	IA	2130*	2142*	W10	D3	W5	W2	3.5
2	Hao, Hanson	IL	2052*	2064*	W8	W4	W3	L1	3.0
3	Keating, Robert F	IA	2212*	2197*	W7	D1	L2	W6	2.5
4	Thompson, Tony D	IA	1781*	1781*	W12	L2	W7	H0	2.5
5	Rector, Richard	IA	1570*	1571*	W11	D6	L1	H0	2.0
6	Chen, Nathan	IA	1530*	1535*	D9	D5	W10	L3	2.0
7	Reedy, Edward	IL	1429*	1445*	L3	W9	L4	W11	2.0
8	Shukla, Abhyudaya	IA	1402*	1409*	L2	W12	D9	D10	2.0
9	Pham, Matthew Tha	IA	1231/17	1288/21	D6	L7	D8	W12	2.0
10	Vigil, Barry	IA	1454*	1443*	L1	W11	L6	D8	1.5
11	Vigil, Eric Golf	IA	1199*	1202*	L5	L10	W12	L7	1.0
12	Tivanski, Vlad	IA	1324*	1252*	L4	L8	L11	L9	0.0

Great Plains Open

11/14-15/2015 Lincoln, NE TD: John Hartmann

Iowa's Bob Keating scored 4/5 tying with 3 others (Joseph Kruml, Joe Knapp, and Vladimir Zyuzin) for the title. John Hartmann sent me the following games that Bob played.

Keating,Robert (2180) − Stepp,John (1747) [B28]
Great Plains Open (1.1), 14.11.2015

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 a6 3.c3 d6 4.d4 ♘d7 5.♗d3 ♕c7 6.0-0 ♖b8 7.e5 d5 8.♘g5 e6 9.♘×h7 c4 10.♘×f8 ♘×f8 11.♗e2 ♕e7 12.♘d2 ♘h6 13.♘f3 ♘g6 14.h3 ♗d7 15.♕c2 ♗c6 16.♘g5 ♔d8 17.b3 b5 18.♘f3 ♔c7 19.a4 c×b3 20.♕×b3 b×a4 21.♕c2 ♖a8 22.♗a3 ♕d7 23.c4 ♘f4 24.c×d5 ♘×e2+ 25.♕×e2 ♕×d5 26.♖ac1 ♘f5 27.♕d2 ♘h4 28.♘×h4 ♖×h4 29.♖×c6+ ♔×c6 30.♖c1+ ♔b7 31.♕b4+
1-0

Dutiel,Tony (1815) − Keating,Robert (2180) [B06]
Great Plains Open (2.1), 14.11.2015

1.e4 g6 2.d4 ♗g7 3.f4 c5 4.c3 c×d4 5.c×d4 d6 6.♘f3 ♘f6 7.♘c3 0-0 8.♗e2 ♘c6 9.0-0 e5 10.f×e5 d×e5 11.d5 ♘d4 12.♔h1 ♘×e2 13.♕×e2 ♘e8 14.♗g5 f6 15.♗h4 ♕e7 16.♖ac1 ♗h6 17.♖c2 ♗d7 18.d6 ♕×d6 19.♖d1 ♕e6 20.♘d5 ♗c6 21.♗f2 ♖f7 22.♗e3 ♗×e3 23.♕×e3 ♔g7 24.♕c5 ♕g4 25.♖c4 ♕e6 26.♘b4 ♖c7 27.b3 ♖ac8 28.♕×a7 ♘d6 29.♘d5 ♘×c4 30.♘×c7 ♖×c7 31.b×c4 ♕×c4 32.♕a5 ♗×e4 33.♘d2 ♕c2 34.♖e1 ♗f5 35.h3 ♕c3 36.♕d5 ♖d7 37.♘e4
0-1

Keating,Robert (2180) − Knapp,Joseph (2039) [B72]
Great Plains Open (3.1), 14.11.2015

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 c×d4 4.♘×d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 g6 6.♗e3 a6 7.f3 b5 8.♕d2 ♗b7 9.0-0-0 ♘bd7 10.♗h6 ♗×h6 11.♕×h6 ♖c8 12.♗d3 ♕b6 13.♘ce2 e5 14.♘b3 a5 15.♔b1 a4 16.♘d2 ♕c5 17.♘f1 d5 18.♘c3 b4 19.♘×d5 ♗×d5 20.e×d5 a3 21.♕e3 ♘×d5 22.♕×c5 ♘×c5 23.♗b5+ ♔e7 24.♖×d5 ♔e6 25.♘e3 f5 26.♖hd1 e4 27.f4 ♔f6 28.b3 ♖c7 29.♖d6+ ♔g7 30.♖c6 ♖×c6 31.♗×c6 ♘e6 32.g3 ♖f8 33.♖d6 ♘d8 34.♗d5 ♔h6 35.♖d7 ♖e8 36.g4 g5 37.♘×f5+ ♔g6 38.♖d6+ ♘e6 39.♗×e6 g×f4 40.h4 ♔f6 41.♗d7+ ♔e5 42.♗×e8 f3 43.♗c6 f2 44.♖d1 ♔f4 45.♗×e4 ♔×e4 46.c4 ♔f3 47.c5 ♔e2 48.♔c2
1-0

Reeves,Neil (1891) − Keating,Robert (2180) [E62]
Great Plains Open (4.1), 15.11.2015

1.c4 g6 2.g3 ♗g7 3.♗g2 ♘f6 4.♘c3 0-0 5.♘f3 d6 6.0-0 e5 7.d4 ♘c6 8.d×e5 ♘×e5 9.♘×e5 d×e5 10.♕×d8 ♖×d8 11.♗g5 ♖f8 12.♖ad1 c6 13.♖d6 ♗e6 14.b3 ♘e8 15.♖d3 f5 16.e4 ♘c7 17.♖fd1 ♗f6 18.♗c1 ♖fd8 19.f4 ♖×d3 20.♖×d3 ♔f7 21.♘e2 ♘e8 22.♔f2 ♖c8 23.♔e3 ♖c7 24.f×e5 ♗×e5 25.♘f4 ♘f6 26.♘×e6 ♔×e6 27.e×f5+ g×f5 28.♔f3 ♖d7 29.♖×d7 ♘×d7 30.♗h6 ♗d6 31.h3 ♘e5+ 32.♔f2 ♘d3+ 33.♔e3 ♘e1 34.♔f2 ♘×g2 35.♔×g2 ♗a3 36.♔f3 ♔f6 37.♗f4 h5 38.♗b8 a6 39.♗a7 ♗b2 40.♗e3 ♗e5 41.♗f4 ♗b2 42.♗h6 ♗a3 43.♗f4 ♔e6 44.♗c7 b5 45.♗b8 b×c4 46.b×c4 a5 47.♗c7 a4 48.♗b8 ♗c1 49.♗f4 ♗b2 50.♗c7 ♗c1
½-½

Kruml,Joseph (2146) − Keating,Robert (2180) [A13]
Great Plains Open (5.1), 15.11.2015

1.b3 ♘f6 2.♗b2 e6 3.♘f3 ♗e7 4.c4 0-0 5.e3 d5 6.♘c3 c6 7.♕c2 ♘bd7 8.♖g1 d×c4 9.b×c4 ♕c7 10.g4 ♘e5 11.♘×e5 ♕×e5 12.♘d5 ♕d6 13.♘×f6+ ♗×f6 14.♗×f6 g×f6 15.♗d3 ♔g7 16.♔e2 c5 17.f4 ♗d7 18.♕c3 ♖ae8 19.g5 e5 20.g×f6+ ♔h8 21.♖g7 e4 22.♗c2 ♗f5 23.♖g5 ♕e6 24.♖ag1 h6 25.♖5g2 ♖d8 26.♔e1 ♖d6 27.♕e5 b6 28.♖g7 ♕×e5 29.f×e5 ♖e6 30.♖f1 ♖×e5 31.♖f4 ♗g6 32.h4 h5 33.♖×g6 f×g6 34.♗×e4 ♔h7 35.♔e2 ♖e6 36.f7 ♔g7 37.♗d5 ♖e7 38.♔f3 ♖d7 39.e4 ♖e7 40.a4 ♖e5 41.♔e3 g5 42.h×g5 ♖×g5 43.d4 ♖g3+ 44.♔f2 ♖g4 45.♖f5 c×d4 46.e5 ♖d8 47.♖×h5 ♖f4+ 48.♔e2 ♖×f7 49.♗×f7 d3+ 50.♔d2 ♔×f7 51.♖h7+ ♔e6 52.♖×a7 ♔×e5 53.a5
½-½

Annual Meeting will be on April 2 at 1pm at FFA Enrichment Center, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, IA 50023

Iowa Chess En Passant
c/o Mark Capron
3123 Juniper Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52245

www.iowa-chess.org

Jim Hodina (L) vs. NM Gopal Menon at the Iowa Open.